

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 OES-06 SS-15 DLOS-06 SAL-01 EB-07

SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 INR-07 /065 W

----- 003981

O 041717Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1824

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 4789

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, PFOR, CA

SUBJECT: GULF OF MAINE AND INTERIM FISHERIES ACCORD

1. SUMMARY: CANADIAN BUREAUCRATS ARE AGAIN TRYING TO UNDO THE OCTOBER 15 KISSINGER/JAMIESON UNDERSTANDINGS ON THE GULF OF MAINE. IN HIS DECEMBER 8 MEETING WITH JAMIESON, SECRETARY SHOULD INSIST ON SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO HIS NOVEMBER 12 LETTER (SEE STATE 278171) BEFORE CONSIDERING ANY NEW CANADIAN PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER JAMIESON'S REPLY TO SECRETARY'S NOVEMBER 12 LETTER (WHICH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TELLS US WAS DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON DECEMBER 3) IS A DISAPPOINTMENT. LETTER MAKES NO EFFORT TO RESPOND TO SECRETARY'S SETTING OF A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, AND RATHER DISINGENUOUSLY TRIES TO SET UP INDEFINITE INTERIM FISHERIES SETTLEMENT DISADVANTAGEOUS TO U.S.

3. EXTAFF DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY BEASLEY TELLS ME THAT REASON WHY THE REPLY DOES NOT ANSWER SECRETARY'S LETTER IS THAT CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT U.S. "HAS ABANDONED" OCTOBER 15 MINISTERIAL UNDERSTANDINGS. BEASLEY CITES TWO ITEMS OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS: (A) THAT THE SECRETARY'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 12 DID NOT EXPLICITLY TIE DOWN IDEA THAT ONLY COMPROMISE BOUNDARIES WITHIN REPEAT WITHIN OVERLAPPING CLAIMS ZONES WOULD BE CONSIDERED; AND (B) THAT U.S. INTERIM FISHERIES NEGOTIATORS HAD REFUSED TO AGREE TO JOINT DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION.

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4. THIS IS OF COURSE NONSENSE AND I TOLD BEASLEY SO. THERE WAS NO KISSINGER/JAMIESON AGREEMENT ON THE ELEMENTS THAT THE INTERIM FISHERIES ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD CONTAIN; ONLY A FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATING THE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS. MOREOVER, KISSINGER/JAMIESON AGREEMENT NOT TO EXCLUDE COMPROMISE BOUNDARIES OTHER THAN EQUIDISTANT AND NORTH CHANNEL WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT DESIGNED TO OPEN UP CLAIMS OUTSIDE THE OVERLAPPING CLAIMS ZONE.

5. BEASLEY AGREED THAT MY RENDERING OF THE OCTOBER 15 KISSINGER/JAMIESON MEETING WAS ACCURATE, BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER THAT UNDERSTANDING WAS RELEVANT ANY MORE SINCE ITS TWO PRINCIPALS HAD NOT AGREED SUBSEQUENTLY ON WHAT IT MEANT. BEASLEY THEN SAID "PERSONALLY" THAT REASON WHY CANADIANS ARE PUSHING JOINT DECISION-MAKING AND SURVEILLANCE IN INTERIM AGREEMENT IS TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHT TO CLAIM EVENTUALLY A LINE WELL SOUTH OF THE EQUIDISTANT LINE, SHOULD THAT BE NECESSARY.

6. JAMIESON, HOWEVER, MAY NOT SHARE BEASLEY'S VIEWS OR OBJECTIVES. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION DECEMBER 3, JAMIESON TOLD ME THAT HE IS NOT RPT NOT CONVINCED JOINT MANAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL, AND IF WE DON'T LIKE IT, MAYBE CANADA WOULDN'T INSIST ON IT. JAMIESON WOULD LIKE, HOWEVER, TO GET A "POLITICAL" COMPROMISE ON THE ISSUE THAT HE CAN DEFEND IN NOVA SCOTIA.

7. COMMENT: BEASLEY APPEARS TO BE MAKING A SUSTAINED EFFORT TO UNRAVEL THE OCTOBER 15 UNDERSTANDING.

8. BUT, SINCE THE CANADIANS ARE DEMANDEURS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS (THEIR INTEREST IN ASSERTING SOME CANADIAN PRESENCE SOUTH OF THE EQUIDISTANT LINE IS GREATER THAN OUR URGENCY TO TIDY UP THIS PROBLEM) WE CAN AFFORD TO WAIT THEM OUT AND SHOULD SIGNAL THIS TO THEM. JAMIESON APPEARS ALREADY TO SENSE THIS AND IS VERY EAGER TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY.

9. THUS SECRETARY IN HIS MEETING DECEMBER 8 SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR AN ANSWER TO HIS LETTER BEFORE CONSIDERING OTHER CANADIAN DEMANDS.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETINGS, FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA04789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760449-0847
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761272/aaaacjuy.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GULF OF MAINE AND INTERIM FISHERIES ACCORD
TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, PFOR, CA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006